

## Small Business Asked for R&D SBIR Contracts Ideas

While NIST scientists conduct breakthrough research that leads to many innovations, the range of NIST effort does not extend to product development in any of its research areas. The remaining work needed to fully exploit NIST technologies for commercial viability necessarily requires innovation on behalf of the private sector. It is that private sector innovation that is to be cultivated through the SBIR “TT” Program. Specifically, commercially viable NIST technologies will be identified together with the technological gaps that impede their direct transition to the marketplace.

NIST SBIR Program is asking small business owners to examine NIST patents as well as other NIST-developed technology for commercial viability and to identify technological gaps that impede the patent’s transition to the marketplace. NIST intends to incorporate technologies of special interest to industry in its formal Solicitation for proposals for its SBIR 2009 R&D contracts this Fall. This SBIR “TT” effort aims to secure small business participation in formulating the SBIR Solicitation with the goal of increasing private sector commercialization of innovations derived from federal R&D.

SBIR invites small, American-owned, for-profit companies to scan NIST patents and technologies and offer research suggestions in advance of the Solicitation that is expected to be issued in November 2008, with proposals due in late January 2009. The deadline for private sector suggestions to the Solicitation is September 15, 2008. In the competition NIST will offer awardees a non-exclusive research license. The company or companies selected for the SBIR award, with access to NIST technology and personnel knowledgeable about the NIST patent, will be expected to add research to the NIST innovation and develop a commercial product based on the NIST patent.

The Phase 1, or Proof of Concept, contracts offer as much as \$90,000 over six months) that if successful can evolve into Phase 2, or R&D Prototype Development, contracts (as much as \$300,000 over two years).

NIST technologies may be searched at:

[www.nist.gov/techbeat](http://www.nist.gov/techbeat) - a searchable, lay language newsletter of recent research results and other NIST news, published biweekly

[www.nist.gov/patents](http://www.nist.gov/patents) - searches all NIST patents (hint: check the box “Restrict to Licensable Technologies” in #1 and leave all search methods blank then simply click “search” button to view all pending and issued patents)

Small companies that identify NIST-held patents, or other NIST technologies that are not patent protected, and wish to explore opportunities to conduct research to further the technology to transition to the commercial market should forward a [submission](#)

to Clara Asmail, NIST SBIR Program Manager, via email at [asmail@nist.gov](mailto:asmail@nist.gov) with the email subject: Technology Submission for SBIR TT.

**NIST provides no assurance that any submission received will be included in the NIST SBIR Solicitation. All eligibility and evaluation criteria for proposals are included in the annual NIST SBIR Solicitation, and no information provided through this submission will in any way affect the proposal selections.**

**Please note that the SBA specifies standards for size and ownership of small companies and establishes eligibility for participation in the SBIR Program.**

**No unsolicited proposals will be accepted.**